(c) if not, the reasons for reducing the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel by Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have reduced the domestic prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by around 1.8% in view of the fall in international prices.

(c) Government neither raises, maintains or reduces ATF prices. These are commercial decisions taken by oil marketing companies in the light of prevailing market conditions.

Hydrocarbon Vision-2025

1477. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

. (a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to meet skilled human resource requirements in view of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are also planning to set up institutes to train the engineers and professionals to meet specific requirements of the oil sector in the country, if, so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also planning to set up advance R&D facilities to meet the future requirements if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government will seek partnership with the private sectors and other strategic partners in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the existing training institutes established by oil sector PSUs, there is a proposal under examination to set up an institute of national importance to train manpower required for the upstream and downstream sectors in the field of petroleum technology.

(c) The knowledge base of the various R&D facilities already existing, in the Government and the public sector oil companies are being networked with state of the art R&D Centres around the world. In this regard, MOUs have been signed between these institutes and institutions in Russia, Romania, Canada, Norway & the Republic of Korea, and talks are underway for finalization of such MOUs with institutions in United Kingdom, United States of America, China and Japan. Besides, Government to Government MOUs in this regard have been concluded with Turkey, Romania, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Venezuela.

(d) The Ministry has undertaken various measures to collaborate with the private sector through the industry organization of Petrofed. A brain storming session on R&D was held on 2.3.2005 at which representatives of the private and public sector oil companies, research institutions and academia identified selected topics of immediate relevance to the upstream hydrocarbons industry. As an outcome of this session, four working groups have been formed to suggest measures to upgrade the technical know-how and skill in the petroleum industry. These groups comprise representatives of both private and public sector oil companies. Efforts are underway to continue this dialogue further with the involvement of the entire petroleum industry.

Bifurcation of MRPL from ONGC

†1478. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) was bifurcated from Hindustan Petroleum and the reasons therefor;

(b) by when MRPL was handed over to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the loss of MRPL at that time;

(c) whether it is a fact that preparations are being made to hand over MRPL once again to Hindustan Petroleum by bifurcating it from ONGC as MRPL attain the position of a profit making one; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.